BRITISH COLUMBIA
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WelcomeBC

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2008AG0014-000426
March 27, 2008

Ministry of Attorney General
and Minister responsible for Multiculturalism
Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts

GRANTS HONOUR ABORIGINAL AND PIONEER CONTRIBUTIONS

VICTORIA – Thirty-three community-based and Aboriginal organizations across the province will receive funding for projects that capture Aboriginal and immigrant pioneer contributions and stories, Attorney General and Minister responsible for Multiculturalism Wally Oppal and Tourism, Sport and the Arts Minister Stan Hagen announced today.

"With the unique diversity of our province's Aboriginal and multicultural communities, British Columbians possess a rich and fascinating heritage," said Oppal. "From reviewing the calibre of awarded community projects, the BC150 Mosaic Grants represent a small investment with a huge payback to all of us. These projects will foster mutual understanding and cross-cultural awareness towards the building and strengthening of welcoming and inclusive communities for generations to come."

Announced in December 2007, the original BC150 Mosaic Grants initiative total has been increased to $300,000 with the addition of $100,000 from WelcomeBC through the Ministry of Attorney General and Minister responsible for Multiculturalism. The extra funding was the result of an unexpectedly high number of applicants. A total of 144 applications were received.

"Strong, diverse communities are known to attract tourism, business and industry, bringing employment opportunities and additional wealth to our province," said Hagen. "B.C.'s diverse cultures and communities have an essential role in communicating the heritage that defines us as a province as we celebrate 150 years of history since becoming a Crown colony."

All successful applicants of the BC150 Mosaic Grants initiative met required criteria. The maximum grant per project is $10,000.

Projects include the recognition and celebration of Chinese settlers' contributions to the history of Nanaimo; "Skeena Stories 150," a book and DVD centred on pioneer stories from the Terrace area; an exhibition about Indo-Canadian pioneers who came to the Abbotsford area at the turn of the 19th century; and "Spirit of the Peace Pow Wow," an event to be held in Fort St. John in mid-June.

Two-thirds of funding for the BC150 Mosaic Grants is provided under WelcomeBC, a provincial initiative announced by Premier Gordon Campbell in June 2007. WelcomeBC is supported by the Government of Canada through the Agreement for Canada-British Columbia Co-operation on Immigration. The initiative helps immigrants moving to B.C. access existing and expanded services under one umbrella, to assist them in better adapting to life in their new communities. For information, go to: www.WelcomeBC.ca.

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BC150 is a celebration of the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Crown colony of British Columbia in 1858. Every community is invited to participate in this year-long celebration of B.C.'s cultural diversity, community strength and achievement. For more information, please visit: www.bc150.ca.

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1 backgrounder(s) attached.

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BACKGROUNDER

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BC150 MOSAIC GRANTS SUCCESSFUL RECIPIENTS

Organization/Recipient	Location	Grant	Project Description
Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society	Nanaimo	$10,000	Recognize contributions of Chinese settlers in Nanaimo history
Terracentric Coastal Adventures Ltd.	Lund	$10,000	Celebrate heritage of Sliammon First Nation and historic Powell River
Cowichan Valley Intercultural and Immigrant Aid Society	Duncan	$10,000	Different Cultures and Generations Helping One Another Project
Cowichan Region Economic Development Commission	Duncan	$10,000	Events and storytelling related to First Nations and shared history
English Language Services for Adults Network (ELSA Net)	Vancouver	$10,000	Child story scripts for child care professionals, with focus on an immigrant and an Aboriginal community
Diversity and Aboriginal Policing, Vancouver Police Department	Vancouver	$10,000	Histories of diverse cultures and current realities, plus relationships with VPD
Skeena Diversity Society	Terrace	$10,000	Skeena Stories 150 Project, DVD and book
The Okanagan School of the Arts	Penticton	$5,900	Creative Spirit Mandala multimedia art piece
K'aalts'idaa K'ah Productions	Masset	$10,000	Haida story "Sounding Gambling Sticks" adapted to the stage
Kelowna Community Resource Society	Kelowna	$10,000	Documentary about early 1900s Chinese immigrants in the interior
Langley Centennial Museum	Fort Langley	$1,675	March 29 symposium about Kwantlen First Nation and relationship with HBC
Lifetime Learning Centre Society	Mission	$10,000	Chinese immigrants' experience in Whispered Voices presentation; Mission writers' festival; Virtual Quilt of Voices presentation
Progressive Intercultural Community Services Society	Surrey	$10,000	Seeking Solutions to Anti-Racism Project educational workshops about immigrant contributions and hardships
Musqueam Indian Band	Vancouver	$9,900	Cultural performance about the history and culture of the Musqueam people
Chinese Canadian Historical Society of British Columbia	Vancouver	$10,000	Chinese Canadians and First Nations: 150 Years of Shared Experiences Project
Richmond Youth Service Agency	Richmond	$10,000	Video, display and workshops about Aboriginal and various cultural groups
School District No. 35 (Langley)	Langley	$10,000	Events and curriculum resources for children about Kwantlen First Nations

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Organization/Recipient	Location	Grant	Project Description
Bains Group of Companies	Victoria	$10,000	Historical contributions of Jogindar Singh Bains to coincide with trail opening, plus community forum
Quesnel and District Museum and Archives, City of Quesnel	Quesnel	$10,000	Chinese Pioneer Cemetery Cairn and pamphlet in tribute to historical contributions
"Spirit of the Peace" Pow Wow Society	Fort St. John	$10,000	Spirit of the Peace Pow Wow event held on the banks of historical fur trade post
Alberni Valley BC150 Committee	Port Alberni	$5,900	Welcoming ceremony/feast with Teseshaht First Nations, crews of war canoes, involving several First Nations with the Nuu-Chah-Nulth, and tall ships
Okanagan Artists Alternative Association	Kelowna	$10,000	Events to complement national indigenous conference/festival On Common Ground
Similkameen Country Development Association	Keremeos	$9,975	Red Bridge Centennial Event will feature contributions of pioneer immigrants and First Nations to Similkameen Valley
Sen Pok Chin School	Oliver	$8,291	Book highlighting student art and stories about cultural identity, First Nations and the community
Immigrant and Multicultural Services Society of Prince George	Prince George	$10,000	Public educational project about local pioneers and their contributions to cultural diversity
Kim Walker	Victoria / Mission	$6,703	Project will provide lasting documentation of Silverdale's multicultural history
Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies, University College of the Fraser Valley	Abbotsford	$10,000	Exhibition of Indo-Canadian pioneers to include rare historic memorabilia
Ama Liisaos Heritage Trust Society	Mission	$10,000	When the Others Came Project to feature initial contact between Stl'atl'imx people and newcomers
Chase and District Museum and Archives Society	Chase	$3,718	Collection of archived oral history interviews including First Nations, French Canadians and the Métis
Métis Nation British Columbia	Vancouver	$10,000	Historical booklet about three Métis, which will be shared with all schools as an educational resource
Outma Sqilx'w Cultural School, Penticton Indian Band	Penticton	$10,000	Students creating multimedia projects about their heritage, plus traditional games and educational workshops
School District 28, Quesnel	Quesnel	$9,500	Interactive kiosk about the historical contributions of Chinese immigrants and the Bear Lake Band of Bowron Lake
Victoria and Vancouver Island Greek Community Society	Victoria	$10,000	Interactive display honouring achievements of seagoing Greeks of Vancouver Island

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